



Francis' Tales

A SEASONAL PUBLICATION DEDICATED
TO GIVING ANIMALS A VOICE IN THE WORLD

Doggie Data



- Dogs see the world in blues, yellows and greys. They are color-blind to red and green which appear grey to them but can see colors in the blue and yellow range. Orange looks dark yellow and violet looks dark blue. Scientists have speculated that blue toys are the most likely to get a dog's attention. However, dogs have far superior night vision.
- Though dogs have sweat glands all over their bodies, dogs only sweat on non-furry areas, including on their noses and paw pads, where they have merocrine sweat glands. Their other sweat glands, known as apocrine glands, release pheromones that help them communicate with other dogs.
- Have you noticed how a dog will drop her tennis ball when you offer her a new one? That is because dogs have neophilia, a penchant for new objects. One study found that dogs chose a new toy over a familiar one 75 per cent of the time.

Feline Facts



- Few things are more adorable than a feline's heart-shaped, rubbery textured little nose. But for all its cuteness, this is one powerful sense receptor. Cats can smell 14 times better than humans. Interestingly, the tip of a cat's nose, called 'the leather' contains a ridged pattern similar to a human fingerprint – no two are alike.
- Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) affects cats in a manner similar to how (HIV) affects people. Fortunately, cats infected with FIV tend to respond well to treatment of their symptoms, and most enjoy a long, happy quality of life. Bentley, who has FIV, is a very friendly loving guy who is looking for his forever home, check him out on our website!
- Adult felines have 30 teeth. Although kittens do not have any teeth at Birth, within their first two weeks of life, most of their 26 baby teeth have grown in. By the time they are about five months old most of the kitty's baby teeth have been replaced by 30 permanent adult choppers.

Francisvale Is So Grateful



Thank you to everyone who has donated their time, energy and good will to Francisvale. We are so appreciative of everything you do, from the Days of Service performed by groups such as SAP, SEI, PECO ENERGY, Villanova and Harriton High School, to those who have brought us much needed items from our Wish List. We also want to thank the Young Friends of Francisvale who have done everything from making dog beds and treats to asking friends and family to give gifts to us instead of receiving birthday presents for themselves. Our Furries think you are all PAWSOME!

If you or your employer would like to make a difference at Francisvale, please let us know, and we will arrange a rewarding experience for you and/or your group.



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328 Upper Gulph Road Radnor, PA 19087 | francisvalehome.org | 610-688-1018

Spring 2020

BROUGHT TO YOU BY FRANCISVALE HOME FOR SMALLER ANIMALS

We Need Your Support Now More Than Ever....

We have all heard the saying "you don't know what you have until it is gone." Well, there is no better example of this than the situation the world finds itself in at this time. We take so many things for granted in our daily lives and most of those things are now temporarily out of reach. In these unpredictable times, we do not know when or if our lives will go back to "normal".

However, with all of the uncertainty whirling around us, there is one thing we can always count on time and time again – the unconditional love of our animals. They will love us no matter what else is going on in this world. For those of you who are spending your self-quarantining with your furry friend(s), you are lucky to have such great company. And for those of you who have not yet experienced the pure joy and companionship a dog or cat can give, perhaps it is time to consider adopting or fostering one.

You may have heard that we have closed our doors to adoptions, surrenders, volunteers, and the public. While it was a very difficult decision to make, we have an obligation to protect the health and safety of everyone, especially the staff who come to work every

day to care for the many dogs and cats living at Francisvale, as well as the welfare of our animals.

We continue to accept adoption and foster applications and will do our best to process them during this time so that when we do reopen, we can once again invite you in to find your forever friend.

Francisvale has always appreciated your support and could not have lasted 110 years without it. **However, we need your support now more than ever to help us survive this difficult time.** A contribution in any amount would be greatly appreciated.

In addition, here are some other ways you can help during this unprecedented crisis: choose Francisvale as your charity when shopping through Amazon Smile; create a Facebook Fundraiser to support us; give a tribute gift of kindness to honor or in memory of someone; sponsor one of our animals; and/or collect and save some items that you may want to donate to HairBall 2020.

Thank you so much for supporting our lifesaving efforts during this challenging time.

MISSION STATEMENT

Francisvale is a no-kill shelter whose mission is to accept cats and dogs in need and provide loving care while looking for permanent homes.

- Shelter and place abused, unwanted and abandoned companion animals

- Educate the community to raise the public's awareness of the plight of homeless animals and realize the benefits of adopting an animal in need
- Ensure all pets receive any medically necessary treatment, including being spayed/neutered

- Place in appropriately matched homes
- Manage and operate a memorial pet cemetery



Environmental Enrichment



By Joyce Riveroll, DVM, Penn Vet Behavior

The Importance Of Environmental Enrichment For Companion Animals

Long ago most dogs spent time outside working on farms herding cattle, sheep, protecting the animals from predators and alerting humans of the presence of unfamiliar people. These dogs were in constant mental alertness. Dogs were not the only animals that were given jobs, cats were cruising at night around barns, silos and places where grain was kept hunting mice and other critters.

In today's world, most of our companion animals, especially dogs and cats, spend most of their time indoors and alone. They live in small places where there may be no yards to run or dig in to perform their natural behaviors. It is in these instances that environmental enrichment becomes a very important part of animal welfare. By definition, it is a principal that seeks to enhance the quality of life by identifying and providing environmental stimuli necessary to provide physiological and psychological wellbeing. In other words, dogs need to sniff, and cats need to hunt just to mention a few. This is important to understand, because by performing specific behaviors, the ability of the animal to cope with changes in the environment increases and stress and anxiety decreases, thus preventing the animal from developing problematic behaviors.

Environmental enrichment should not be mistaken with behavioral modification. The goal of enrichment is to reduce an animal's stress level and increase emotional wellbeing, whereas behavioral modification

works towards altering the problematic behavior (i.e. fear, reactivity, aggression, etc.) by changing the animal's perception of it. Enrichment can be provided by adding novelty objects to the environment, as well as removing objects that are seen as a threat or elicit any fear response from the animals.

Dog Enrichment

Nowadays we have a large number of products that can help implement environmental enrichment to help our companion animals cope with their household lives. There are interactive toys that can help dispense kibble or treats making the feeding longer and more fun for the animals. Kong Wobblers, Busy Buddies toys, and snuffle mats that resemble grass where you can hide treats, help serve as mental exercise since they have to make different choices to get the food. Other toys that can help expend pent up energy are food puzzles like the ones at Nina Ottosson.

Not all the toys have to be bought, owners can make their own interactive toys with things they can find in their household. Backyards can also present a great opportunity to play interactive games like treasure hunt, in which the animal searches using its nose and sight for boxes where treats are hidden.

Cat Enrichment

Many owners know the pleasure of waking up at dusk thanks to a cat jumping on them and nibbling or attacking them while they move away. Environmental enrichment can help a cat mimic these natural behaviors if owners place several small bowls of food in different places of the house so that the animal can simulate the hunt and consume "small amounts of prey" throughout the night. Doc and Phoebe are new enrichment toys in the form of mice that have holes to put the kibble inside. You can also use cardboard boxes or paper bags for the cats to play and hide.

Another way to help cats achieve more sense of space, is by providing vertical places for them to climb. As predators, cats like to have the advantage of altitude. Cat trees, shelving, window perching or allowing them to climb into high places (bookshelves, closets, etc.), can also provide a sense of security.



It is also important to take into consideration that most feral cats do not eat or eliminate where their food is, so remember, in your household, to keep the food in a separate place from the water and the litterbox to mimic their natural predilection.

Sensory Stimulation

Novelty objects that provide olfactory, visual, tactile, auditory and taste stimulation to the animals. This can be obtained by presenting the animal with different toys or objects with the following guidelines:

1. Provide a variety by offering different toys and experiences (toys, scents, etc.) and rotate them to keep their interest.
2. Introduce the toys and games gradually and take the time to show the animal what is it that you want them to do. Always do this in a positive way. Consider that some animals may be too fearful towards certain toys or games. Always work at the animal's pace.
3. Do not get angry at them if they do not initially understand how to use them.
4. Some animals may need enrichment to reduce stimulation, like blinds or covers in the windows, to prevent them from seeing other animals or



5. Overstimulating the animal can increase stress levels, so it should be avoided.
6. If you have more than 1 dog or cat in the house, make sure that they have their separate time to use interactive toys and games to prevent any aggression between them.
7. You can try to give your cat or dog an interactive game when you or the family are watching TV, working or eating to keep them entertained.
8. When using a cat wand, or playing with cats, you must always end the game session by giving some treats to the cat to mimic the consummation phase of the hunting.
9. Do not use a laser pointer to play with cats, since it is something that they will never be able to catch and only provokes frustration.
10. Classical music can also be used when the animals are left alone in the house and to muffle the sounds of voices and/or thunderstorms or fireworks.
11. The use of synthetic pheromones (Adaptil and Feliway) has been recommended to elicit feelings of relaxation in dogs and cats.

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2020

Please join us this year for HairBall 2020, "The Great Catsby", our annual fundraiser to be held at Aronimink Golf Club to benefit the animals at Francisvale.

You will have the opportunity to bid on our exciting live auction, as well as the many unique silent auction items and gift baskets. There are multiple ways to help, including sponsorship opportunities, monetary gifts or donations of auction items, such as a gift card or certificate, a vacation home, or even an item that perhaps you no longer need and would like to give to Francisvale for the silent auction.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and hope to see you at the HairBall! Please contact: executivedirector@francisvalehome.org to arrange a sponsorship or donation and for more information.

